

RUSSELL KIRK

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Sec 6 Cuba

Castro Foe Fights on 2 Fronts:

Red Cuba, U.S. Administration

This is some brief account of a courageous and eloquent young man; Alexander Rorke Jr.

He is carrying on a war against Fidel Castro—and he has to fight nearly as hard against functionaries in Washington who seem to have constituted themselves Castro's protectors.

The other day, to my surprise and pleasure, I was asked to introduce Rorke at a public meeting in my obscure village of Mecosta, Mich.

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Perhaps I shouldn't have been surprised, for very interesting people turn up unexpectedly in this cut-over country. One night, in Doyle's Bar, I met a canon of the Holy Sepulchre—cross my heart and hope to die. But that's another story.

Anyway, by a fortunate circumstance, Rorke was able to talk to us—probably the first public lecturer in our village hall since the Panic of 1893. You can read something about him in a new book by John Martino and Nathan Weyl, "I Was Castro's Prisoner."

Like Martino, Rorke was a prisoner of the Fidelistas for too long. But he is better known as one of the chief people still carrying on the fight against the Cuban Communists.

It was in the planes that bombed oil refineries outside Havana last April, and that earlier scattered hundreds of thousands of anti-Communist leaflets over Camaguey.

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At present, the CIA and other American government agencies are doing everything in their power to stop Cuban exiles and their American friends from striking blows against Castro.

The Rorke policy and



ings raids and demonstrations can the Cuban people be kept aware that there is hope of liberation—and only thus can Castro be kept from consolidating his power and extending his influence to Central and South America.

Yet, apparently in consequence of a private understanding with Soviet Russia, the Kennedy administration has set its face against the Cuban forces of liberation—which now have to operate chiefly from Nicaragua.

Surely the historians of the future will find few episodes in the history of the United States more curious than the foreign policy of the Kennedy Administration toward the most serious threat to our national values from Communism seen.

Since the days of the Cuban revolution, the

glib—*or, if somewhat sounder, then ignored.*

Rorke tells, for instance, of the ineffectual conduct of the American vice consul in Havana—a certain Kessler—when Americans arbitrarily imprisoned by the Fidelistas appealed to him for help.

He told Rorke and others that they had no rights, that he could not help them in any way, and that they ought to cooperate with their Communist jailers!

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American policy during the Bay of Pigs fiasco, and afterward, has been determined by a "seminar" of unrealistic professors and bureaucrats, Rorke claims.

He believes that men such as the late Rorke, who inspired both the Communists and the cravens,

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is on vacation. The column will be